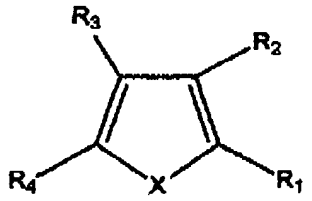
Claims

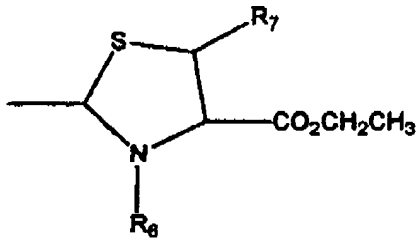
Claims 1-18 (canceled)

19 (currently amended). A method for treating sickle cell disease in a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of administering to said patient a compound of the formula:



where

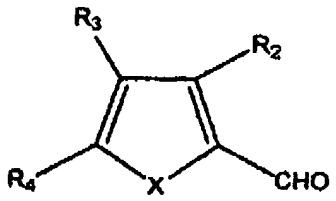
R1 is CHO or a thiozolidine group of the following formula:



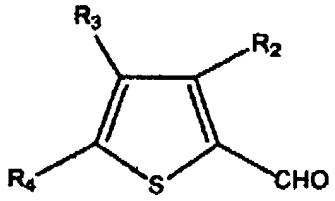
R2, R3 and R4 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of H, OH, alkyl, halogen and hydroxy-alkyl; R6 and R7 = H;
X= O or S;

and wherein said compound is administered in sufficient amount to said patient to ameliorate sickle cell disease.

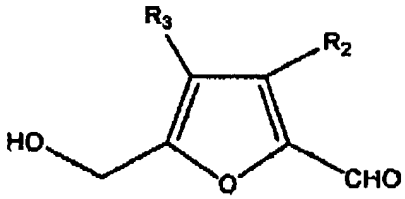
20 (original). The method of claim 19, wherein R2 and R3 = H; R4 is H, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; and X =O and the general formula of the compound is:



21 (original). The method of claim 20, wherein R2 and R3 = H; R4 is H, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; and the general formula of the compound is:

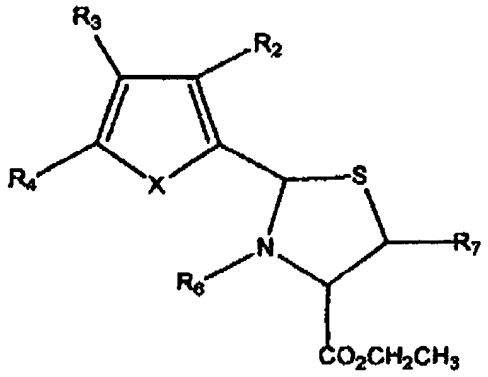


22 (currently amended). The method of claim 20, wherein said compound is of the formula:



where
R2 and R3 =H.

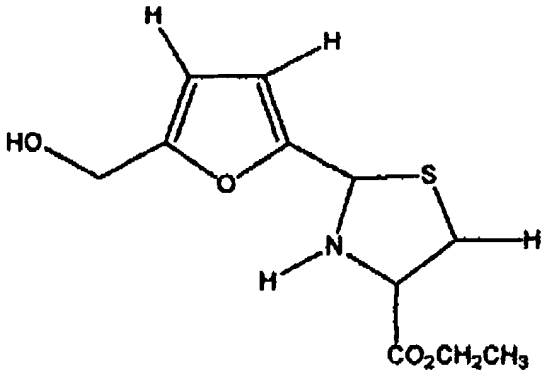
23 (currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is of the formula



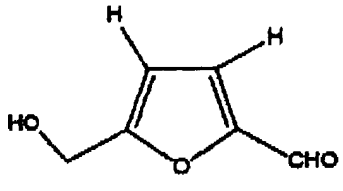
where

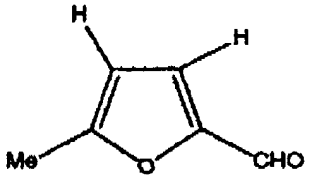
R2, R3 = H; R4 is H, alkyl or hydroxy-alkyl; R6 and R7 =H; and X = O

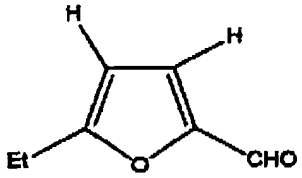
24 (currently amended). The method of claim 23, wherein said compound is of the formula:



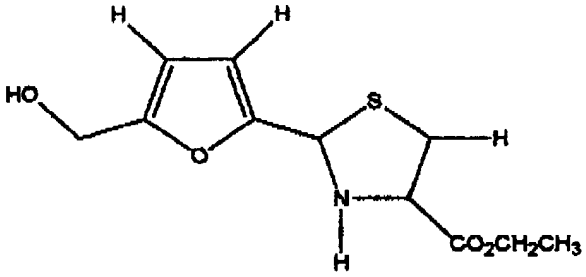
25 (currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula:







and



26(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 5-hydroxymethyl-2-furaldehyde.

27(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 2-(5-hydroxymethyl-furan-2-yl)-thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

28(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 5-methyl-furaldehyde.

29(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 5-ethyl-furaldehyde.